

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 4 and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully submits that Bottan, the reference relied upon to support the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is not prior art. Specifically, the present application was filed on February 22, 2002 and claims priority via the PCT Application No. PCT/FR01/01903 filed 19 June 2001 to the French Application 0007978 filed June 22, 2000. Accordingly, in that Applicant's earliest effective priority date is prior to the filing date of Bottan, Bottan is not available as prior art. Applicant has requested a certified copy of the priority document and will forward that to the Office upon receipt.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2146-907758) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

EJK:JHV:jab

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June 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached hereto are Replacement Sheets 1-4 including Figs. 1-5.